REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 27, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 27, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 18-23 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 and 2 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 28, 29, respectively, of copending Application No: 10/691308. Applicants submit herewith the attached terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) to obviate the provisional double patenting rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as lacking antecedent basis for "the data repository" in line 3. Claim 23 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for a data repository. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

PAGE 8/13 * RCVD AT 6/30/2006 4:00:38 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:7136234846 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-30

Claims 18-22 have been amended to refer to a computer readable *storage* medium. Applicants submit that claims 18-22 are directed to statutory subject matter and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Patent No: 5,940,821 to Wical (hereinafter *Wical*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In this case, *Wical* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth in the claim." For example, Wical does not disclose the use of pointers as set forth in claim 1. The Examiner argues that Wical discloses generating a pointer to the identified set of expanded search terms [*Wical* Col 11 lines 41-45, Col 11 lines 62-67, Col 12 lines 34-35]. However, the cited passage is in fact directed to the use of cross references and links to terminology categories. The use of pointers, as recited in the claims, is to reference a database of stored expanded search terms. The claim also recites modifying the query to contain one or more conditions based on one or more expanded search terms retrieved using the pointer, which is also not taught by *Wical*.

Accordingly, Applicants submit claim 1 and its dependents are allowable and request withdrawal of this rejection.

PAGE 9/13 * RCVD AT 6/30/2006 4:00:38 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:7136234846 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-30

Claims 18-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Patent No: 6,493,721 to Getchius (hereinafter *Getchius*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In this case, *Getchius* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth in the claim." For example, *Getchius* does not disclose providing an interface allowing a user to "specify a set of expanded search terms to be associated with the at least one base search term and further allowing the user to specify whether the set of expanded search terms should be dynamically linked with the query via a pointer used to identify a source of the set of expanded search terms" as recited in independent claim 18.

In fact, Applicants submit that *Getchius* fails to teach the claimed use of pointers at all. While the Examiner argues that *Getchius* discloses retrieving a set of expanded search terms using a pointer [*Getchius* Col 32, lines 5-13], the cited passage is in fact directed to the used of a "hot" cache, saved for use in later processing. The cache in *Getchius* is used to provide results from a previously executed query, without the need to re-execute the query. *Getchius* does not teach the use of a pointer to retrieve an expanded term list and/or subsequently modifying a query to contain one or more conditions including a specified set of expanded search terms, as recited in independent claim 23.

Therefore, Applicants submit claims 18 and 23, as well as their dependents, are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wical* in view of *Getchius*. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner bears the initial burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *See* MPEP § 2142. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one ordinary skill

PAGE 10/13 * RCVD AT 6/30/2006 4:00:38 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:7136234846 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-30

in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. *See* MPEP § 2143.

The present rejection fails to establish at least the third criterion. For example, the references, even when combined as suggested in the Office Action, fail to teach modification of a query and the use of pointers to identify a set of expanded search terms as recited in claims 4 and 5. As described above, neither *Wical* nor *Getchius*, whether combined or taken separately, teach the claimed use of pointers.

Accordingly, Applicants submit claims 4 and 5, as well as their dependents, are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 15-17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Getchius in view of Pat No: 6,999,959 to Lawrence et al (hereinafter *Lawrence*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The references, even when combined as suggested in the Office Action, fail to teach "providing a runtime component configured to retrieve a saved query, retrieve one or more expanded terms associated with the base search term from a repository of expanded terms using pointer information associated with the saved query, and modify the query to contain one or more conditions including the one or more expanded terms" as recited in independent claim 15. As described above, *Getchius* does not teach the claimed use of pointers to retrieve expanded search terms and corresponding modification of a saved query. Similarly, *Lawrence* fails to teach these claimed elements. While *Lawrence* refers to the use of query results from a previously executed query, *Lawrence* does not teach modification of a query as recited in the claims [See *Lawrence* Col 10, 22-25].

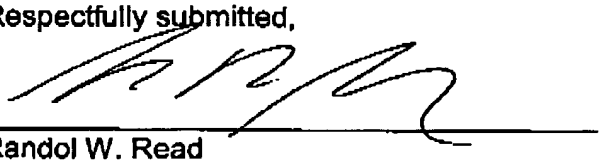
Therefore, Applicants submit claim 15, as well as its dependents, are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

PAGE 11/13 * RCVD AT 6/30/2006 4:00:38 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:7136234846 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-30

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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PAGE 12/13 * RCVD AT 6/30/2006 4:00:38 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:7136234846 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-30